

WORTH NEWS ITEMS.

the South's Progress and Prosperity Briefly Noted.

Things of Interest Portrayed in Fifty Paragraphs.

Aiken, S. C., County, Town bridge bank has been closed by auction granted to Godfrey Jones, of Alabama, has succeeded to the late Chief Justice R. C. Stone, on the supreme bench. A catch from Bristol, Tenn., says: "The road is fifteen miles long and though not finished, has cost \$100,000."

A federal court at Birmingham, Judge Bruce granted the motion of district attorney to discharge jury box on the ground that it was irregularly drawn. He ordered a new jury box to be drawn. He said he did not know he would summon a new grand jury.

Thousands of negroes attended a convention at Birmingham, Ala., under the question of emigration. Resolutions were adopted effect that, as the white men of the negroes to America, they pay their fare back to their land. Bishop Turner was present and advocated emigration.

Reports from Comanche, Erath, Wise, and other Texas counties west of Fort Worth, are to the effect that the heavy frost has been a serious damage to fruits. In places corn was up and has been killed. Peaches and other fruit trees in bloom, and a serious falling of fruit crop of the season is almost certain.

Memphis dispatch says: That section of the Mississippi valley west of the present appearance of a land sea. The steady downpour has flooded the whole country. The water has been swept away and has inundated. The damage done up into the hundreds of millions of dollars. The railroads are the greatest sufferers.

Street car lines of Savannah are midst of a rate war. The City of Savannah has made a cut in the fare. The Electric Railway Company they will not meet the cut. The fare negotiations were pending a consolidation. They were off, however, and it is thought was made to try and force the railway people to terms.

Howard Harrison pipe works, Birmingham, Ala., district, the first shipment to Philadelphia, on a contract recently made with the city council of Philadelphia for 100,000 tons of iron pipe to be used for water.

Iron men of the district are agitating over the fact that Philadelphia is buying her pipe from Birmingham. A petition signed by a number of anti-prohibitionists of Jackson, has been issued to the friends of the liquor traffic in that county, asking for a referendum to determine if the liquor traffic in that county is to be longer allowed. Petitions are being circulated for signatures.

A petition of one-third of the electors before the board of supervisors to order such election. Grand jury of the Herndon, Va., court at Richmond, found bill against James Halloran, Wilson and B. F. Ashby, and William P. Woodson and Brainer, clerks of election of precinct, for allowing and fraud at the last election—corrupt. They were indicted on the bill and bailed in the sum of \$10,000 to appear at the next term court.

Lumbia, S. C., special says: "The Tiltman has returned from London. He denies emphatically that he had become involved in having conflicts of authority with the United States revenue of the state in the matter of handling contraband liquor. He says that he and Commissioner Miller had a clear understanding that the matter was satisfactorily adjusted."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Judge Anderson decided the case of J. M. Under indictment for misfeasance entering into the coal company. The case was decided upon an admission of facts to the effect that the defendant had entered into a contract with the coal company, and that the company had handled exclusively the out-letting of the coal. The judge decided that the defendant was guilty as charged, and fined him \$250. A number of members of the combine were indicted.

Simonton has filed a decree at the S. C. C., dismissing the case of the Richmond and Danville. This suit was similar to the railroad tax cases heretofore decided. In each case the roads claimed that the property was over assessed. They paid the amount on what they considered a fair assessment, and then brought suit to restrain them from collecting the tax. Judge Anderson decided that the roads were not to be assessed.

According to a new census just received, shows a population of 440.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Affairs of Government and News of the Departments Discussed.

Notes of Interest Concerning the People and Their General Welfare.

The house committee on agriculture has perfected the Hatch anti-option bill and directed Mr. Hatch to report it to the house favorably. The vote on the bill was 12 to 2.

The Pollard-Breckinridge case has developed the fact that there is no law in the District of Columbia for the punishment of sedition. Congressman Morse, of Massachusetts, has introduced a bill which contains the text of the stringent Massachusetts law on this subject.

Although the proposition to report a bill for the repeal of the ten per cent state bank tax has been killed in the house committee on banking and currency, it is intended to bring it before the house for action. The committee has authorized Chairman Springer to report a bill for the relief of certain banks, chiefly in the southern states, which, during last summer, issued clearing house certificates in various parts of the country.

A New Chinese Treaty. The senate committee on foreign relations has been considering an important Chinese treaty negotiated by the new Chinese minister and Secretary Gresham. The treaty was sent to the senate some time ago, and referred to the foreign relations committee, where it has been fully considered and discussed in all its details. It is said that it does not meet with the approval of some senators who are members of the committee. It is understood that this opposition, while considerable, has not been sufficient to prevent its being reported favorably, though possibly with some amendments. As negotiated, the treaty practically sets aside and supercedes the Scott exclusion act and the recently enacted Geary law. It is an immigration treaty and provides for the admittance of Chinese immigrants under restrictions. It also has for its object the protection of Chinese already in this country.

The President and the Seigniorage Bill. A Washington dispatch says: The situation at the white house presents one strong feature of novelty in the fact that it appears to be the scene of a bloodless battle just now between the congressmen on one hand, the large majority of whom are urging the signing of the seigniorage bill, and the great commercial institutions of the country on the other; for twenty-nine out of every thirty of the communications coming from them pray for the veto of the bill. The congressmen have the advantage of personal pressure on the field, but the other side is in evidence in great force in the enormous number of letters that burden the presidential mail and of the telegrams that come so numerously as to keep the wires hot and the white house operator occupied to his full capacity. These communications by mail and wire are coming from all parts of the country and are not, as might be supposed, altogether of eastern origin. For instance, there were appeals from Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Francisco and Salem, Oregon. Virginia has also joined the line, as was made evident by protests against the bill from the cotton factors of Norfolk and the transportation interests there. A very thoughtful presentation of objections to the bill has come from Richmond. Of course, it is manifestly impossible for the president to read in detail all of these communications, but they are carefully examined by Mr. Thurber and any new point or suggestion on either side of the case is brought to the attention of the president. There are all sorts of stories about as to the president's disposition towards the bill, and some have gone to the length of reciting that he has already prepared a veto measure and that he read a draft of it to the members of the cabinet. The subject was discussed at the meeting from all points of view. But some of the members intimate that the president is still open to conviction.

STARVING MINERS. A Big Strike Extending Throughout the Coal Country. Dispatches from Bellefonte, Pa., state that the miners' strike has extended to all parts of the bituminous coal country. The announcement of two reductions of 5 per cent in wages the past month has created the most intense dissatisfaction and grumbling among all classes of mine laborers and the men at their recent meeting have decided to "stand out" until the former rate of wages is restored. The number of malcontents is about 5,000, but their already large number of strikers will be considerably augmented as soon as the colliers employed in the mountain districts are ordered out by the district officers of the United Mine Workers of America. The entire number of men belonging to the union is between 26,000 and 28,000, and it is confidently expected that this vast aggregation of miners will be striking within a few days.

Prendergast Resisted. A Chicago special says: Prendergast has been respite until April 8th. Respite was granted by Judge Chetlain, pending a determination of Prendergast's sanity. When the judge announced his decision, a demoniacal grin took possession of Prendergast's face and he turned from one face to another with a look of satisfaction. He was quickly ushered out of the courtroom and returned to jail.

THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

The House and Senate Called to Order in Regular Session.

Daily Summary of Routine Business in the Two Houses.

THE HOUSE.

In the house, Thursday, on motion of Mr. Cox, of Connecticut, the house bill passed extending the time in which the St. Louis and Birmingham railroad company may build a bridge over the Tennessee river at Clifton, Tenn. Mr. Patterson, of Tennessee, called up the O'Neill-Joy contested election case from the eleventh district of Missouri, to which Wang, of Indiana, raised the question of consideration. On a division there were 109 ayes, none 1. The yeas and nays were ordered. This showed 159 democrats present, 20 less than a quorum.

In the house, Friday, a joint resolution was passed appropriating \$10,000 for the compensation of deputy collectors of international revenue to enforce the Geary law. A resolution was offered by Mr. Cummings, expressing regret at the death of Louis Kosuth and requesting the speaker to transmit the respectful sympathy of the house to the family of the deceased. It was agreed to. At 1:05 p. m., the O'Neill-Joy contested election case was called up and the yeas and nays were ordered on the question of consideration. No quorum voted and the case was postponed. The Wheatley-Cobb contested case, from the fifth Alabama district was then called up, and the resolution declaring Mr. Cobb entitled to the seat was agreed to without a division, and after this the house went into committee of the whole on the Military Academy appropriation bill.

There were less than fifty members on the floor when the house met Saturday morning. Mr. Maddox, of Georgia, asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a joint resolution directing the secretary of the navy to declare a vacancy at the naval academy from the south Georgia district. The house then went into the committee of the whole, Mr. Hatch in the chair, upon the postal appropriation bill for the year ending June 30, 1895. Mr. Henderson, of North Carolina, made a brief statement of the contents of the bill. It carries, he said, a total appropriation of \$87,470,600, or \$3,125,500 less than the estimates of the department. Mr. Moses, of Georgia, pleaded for a continuation of the experiment initiated by Postmaster General Wainwright for free rural delivery and moved to divert \$20,000 of the appropriation for free delivery for that purpose, which, after brief discussion, was adopted. An amendment was adopted authorizing the postoffice department to either purchase or lease steam cancelling machines. The committee then arose and the house adjourned until Monday at noon.

After passing some bills of minor importance, upon the announcement of Senator Colquitt's death, the house, at 1 p. m. Monday, adjourned.

THE SENATE.

There was very little routine morning business in the senate Wednesday, and after it was disposed of unobjected bills on the calendar were taken up and a number passed.

The senate adopted a resolution offered by Mr. Hoar Thursday, expressing regard at the death of Louis Kosuth and tendering to the family of the deceased the condolence of the senate. The senate agreed that when it adjourned it be to meet Monday.

At 12:12 p. m. the senate, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Senator Alfred H. Colquitt of Georgia, adjourned till 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, when the funeral ceremonies over his remains were to be held in the senate chamber.

ST. LOUIS BANKS SWINDLED.

Three Clever Forgeries in Which About \$200,000 Was Secured.

Well matured plans to swindle St. Louis banks were executed the past week by three clever forgers. A dozen banks were victimized, the amount secured aggregating \$200,000. The swindlers by some means secured copies of bank checks used by firms and individuals, even copying in red the serial numbers used by the firms. These numbers were obtained by a smooth young man who claimed to represent the house doing the printing for the firm. He would ask the business house cashier to see his book, saying there was some defect in the printing that he wished to correct if the firm desired. In every instance he was successful in getting a look at the last stub in a partly used check book and noted the serial number. The forged paper would be made out a few numbers in advance of the check books. Even the minutest characteristics of individuals in their signatures were closely followed. So well was the work done that not one of the forged checks was rejected. The officials of the different banks refuse any information on the matter, but it is known that a detective agency is at work on the case.

Affairs in Nicaragua.

A special from New Orleans says: The condition in Bluefields, Nicaragua, is as unsettled as ever. The English are still in control of the police protection of the city, and, in fact, in practical control of the entire reservation. Lacey remains at Bluefields and refuses to vacate. But his position is not recognized and Americans continue to ignore his demand upon them for payment of shipping dues.

BRAINS and BRAUN make a combination that is sure to win.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

He is Getting Weaned From His Political Idol and is Drifting.

A Letter From An Old Friend Provokes Sad Reflections.

"Discontent, dissension, delirium!" What is the matter with politics? When will the pot boil down?

"Doubt, double to and fro!"

The first of all things is democracy. The love of office and power still runs the flames and the people are bewildered. "The city of Shastan is perished." A letter from an old Alabama friend has provoked some sad reflections. A good old gentleman, who graduated at Emory college with Tom Norwood and Bishop Key, writes me sadly about the disunion and division of the grand old democratic party. Two candidates for governor in Alabama and both claiming to be democrats and brother is arrayed against brother, father against son and nabor against nabor. "I still stick to the old party as I understand it and try to be calm and serene."

No wonder the old man is troubled. Where is the old party and what is it? Who is a democrat now and what does democracy mean? It used to be the proud boast of a good citizen to say "I am a democrat," but it makes a man smile to hear it now. Better say I am a man and henceforth shall support good men for office regardless of party. The press has long been the political scale for the people, but the democratic press, both state and national, is torn into many fragments and every paper has a creed of its own. The battle cry used to be "measure and not men," but now there is no unity, no harmony upon the measures, and all that we poor mortals can do is to go for the man. I feel that there is a good, conservative republicanism that for a mean, tricky democrat. When Tweed and his ring were arrested for stealing a few millions our unsuspicious preacher said, "why surely it cannot be possible! Are they not all democrats?" And Judge Underwood replied, "Mr. Aikin, I fear you are too good for this world. Yes, my friends, they are democrats, but I have lived long enough to discover that it is within the range of possibility for democrats to steal."

I used to think that I was a good Cleveland democrat, and when he got married I felt sure that he was a Moses, and would save the country, for he had a help-mate—a noble and true woman by his side. When Baby Ruth came along I considered that the seal of destiny was fixed and our president had the right to be admitted into good society—that is into the society of respectable married people who have children born in lawful wedlock. There is no other first-class society that I know of. But ever and anon something turns up that I don't like. I am getting weaned, and I feel mortified at my own disappointment. It is sad for a man to have his idol broken. And now I feel like I have no leader, and that my party is divided and the good ship is drifting towards the rocks. I read all sides and have discourses with many men who are behind the scenes, and I confess to a loss of confidence in parties—all parties and party leaders. But still I am not a pessimist. I believe the country still is safe. There are more than ten good men in Sodom. If the democracy can't run the machine, some other party will, and so I intend to be calm and serene. There is not much at stake except the offices, and not one man in a hundred ever gets one of these, so I am going to quit worshipping anybody. Nevertheless, I am banking my hopes upon some good men at home. I am for General Evans for governor, just because my feelings went that way when his name was first mentioned. There are some emotions that you can't suppress. I haven't a thing against any other aspirant—not a thing, and would cheerfully support that good man, Mr. Atkinson. If General Evans was suddenly called up higher. Then there is our Congressman Turner, whom I would delight to support for anything within the gift of the people. My admiration for his political integrity and ability is very great. But we have scores of good men in Georgia, and I wish that we had an office for every one who wants it.

We are still in Florida and will remain until after the equinoctial commotion if it commotes at all this spring. We all escorted Mrs. Arp to the island today, and the little grandchild led her all about and helped her to pick up shells and told her the names of them. My wife behaved beautifully in the saltbath, considering that it was the first time she ever ventured into one. When it came to the did want to get on the high side, but made no sign of distress. It makes a talking woman mighty quiet to get her out in a frail boat upon the deep blue sea. The girls wanted to take her out Sunday evening, but I forbade. They may steal oranges, but they shall not sail on Sunday. Heard a preacher say the other day that one time there was a little girl who was going to Saratoga with her parents, and she said her last morning prayer: "Goodby, God; we are going to Saratoga to spend the summer. Goodby, God; we will see you when we come back." And the preacher added: "Just so it is with our country friends when they come down to spend the winter in Florida. They sail or ride or frolic on the Sabbath and neglect the church and its ordinances. They virtually say, 'Goodby, God, we will see you later.'" There is some unwelcome truth in this. We are too careless when we get away from home where there is no shepherd to watch the sheep and no pastors to criticize.

I wish that you had had an artist here the other day to sketch a Florida picture. Our good landlord has his own wool with a little wagon and a claybank pony. While out a mile from the village he came across an alligator that was slowly making his way from one lake to another. Mr. Aunsbaugh tackled him at once and commanded a surrender, but the brute showed fight and ran him behind the wagon and into the scrub, and tried hard to get away. They had it round and round for some time, but finally Mr. Aunsbaugh lassoed him with a rope that he had in the wagon, and then tied him to the axle-tree, and, mounting on his wool, he drove into town with the brute half walking and half dragging and struggling behind. It was a scene that was rare, even in Florida, and soon every boy and dog in the town was following the menagerie. He is here yet, alive, in a pig pen, but Mr. Lowry will soon sacrifice him and cross him up to take a place in his collection of Florida curiosities. If your artist could only imagine the turnout and the procession, he could make a graphic picture.—Bill Arp in Atlanta Constitution.

A RAGING BLIZZARD.

Snow Twenty Feet Deep in the Northwest—Heavy Loss of Stock.

Dispatches from Buffalo, Wyoming, state that the wires are just up after the late storm which continued a terrible blizzard for over seventy-six hours without abating. The temperature averaged zero and blinding snow obscured the sky like clouds of dust. Snow drifted ten to twenty feet deep in every direction and all roads were impassable. The coach took five days coming from Clar Mene, thirty miles distant on the Burlington road. Ranchmen from the outside are unable as yet to reach the city but reports from stockmen near by show that the loss of stock is terrible.

Gold in Virginia.

Two valuable veins of gold-bearing quartz, assaying on the surface from \$9 to \$12.50 per ton, have been discovered in Louisiana county, Va. It is said that New York capitalists, who own the property, have organized a syndicate to buy up all the adjoining land.

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